

has said that their budget spends \$13 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund. Instead of trying to strengthen Social Security, protect it for the future and not spend it, they are in fact at this moment deep into the Social Security surplus.

As my colleagues know, the baby boomers are going to retire soon. We need a strong Social Security system for those people who are enjoying it today and for those who need to have it for the future.

The budget that the Republican leadership has prepared does not allow for that reality, so we need to call this for what it is. I will tell my colleagues what they are doing. Not only are they spending our savings, they are doing it with projects that are out of step with the public priorities. They spend billions of dollars on military projects that the Pentagon does not want. They give billions to the corporate oil and gas industry.

Let us unmask this faulty rhetoric.

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, again my colleague from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), to put it charitably, is confused. See, one of the oldest Washington tricks is to send the budgeteers a letter with false assumptions to get a false result. In the real world that is called garbage in, garbage out.

Now to the gentlewoman and the rest of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, we do not propose to put wheels on anyone's grandma and take away their Social Security. Now that has been, sadly, standard operating procedure when the free spenders were in charge of this institution; but on the contrary, Mr. Speaker, what we propose is a 1 percent solution.

Observe, Mr. Speaker, one penny, one cent, made, no doubt, with fine Arizona copper in part, and what we propose, Mr. Speaker, is to take one penny out of every dollar of discretionary spending. That way we balance the books; that way we preserve the Social Security Trust Fund.

No, we do not want to see grandma sold down the river or any American. We will stop the raid. We have done so, and we dare not turn back now. Responsibility, credibility, and the future is the key to success, and we will do it.

FAILED POLICY IN AFRICA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, America is supposed to be a force for good in the world, but with our failed policy in Africa I am beginning to wonder if that is really so. How can a mother allow the world's children to be offered up as the most innocent victims of U.S. foreign policy?

Madeleine Albright's first stop in Africa was a stark example of our continued failure on that continent. It was U.S. policy to do nothing to help the fledgling democracy of Sierra Leone. Only after that policy became a shameful embarrassment, the U.S. brokered the peace that gave important ministries in government to rebels whose hallmark was to rape little girls and chop off their arms.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a share in government for rapists and mutilators is in Albright's own words the necessary price of peace, just like 5,000 dead kids a month in Iraq. After standing in line to shake hands with the victims of her do - nothing - to - help - when - a - a - little - help - can - make - a - difference policy, Albright remarked, "It's hard to extend your hand to shake hands with people who don't have hands."

Mr. Speaker, the President has allowed his Africa policy to become insensitive, uncaring, and shameful.

RENAMING FEDERAL BUILDINGS

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, in the short time I have been here, I have witnessed several things and heard many statements that I can only characterize or that can only be characterized as at least audacious; but nothing to date has been more audacious than the recent attempt to name buildings after present Members of Congress. If this trend continues, Mr. Speaker, we may find ourselves debating issues such as this in this great building but having it renamed after one of our more powerful Members. So I ask my colleagues in both the House and Senate to take a step back, take a deep breath and ask themselves the honest question of whether they truly feel they are deserving of the honor of having their names forever etched on the side of Federal property.

I feel that the opportunity to impact the lives of our constituents every day is honor enough for one's entire life, and I will today introduce legislation to end attempts to immortalize one's self while serving in this body.

SOCIAL SECURITY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe in Social Security; and when we look at it, when we look at the legislation, we got to make sure we address the needs of those senior citizens that we have in this country. We also need to make sure that we address the baby boomers as they come up in this.

And as we also look at that piece of legislation, as we look at what we are doing out here, we need to also make

sure that we take care of the "baby echo," those youngsters that are beginning to pay Social Security and those youngsters are beginning to work out there. It is important for us to do that.

As we also look at what Social Security has done in this country, a lot of Americans out there who work saw that they have. My dad worked for over 35 years in a company, and after all was said and done, the only thing he had was Social Security. Social Security, there are 12 million senior citizens who only receive that, and that is what keeps them out of poverty. There are over 800,000 youngsters that also fall under the Social Security that are also taken care of. Many Americans, especially women and minorities, do not have the jobs that provide the retirement and disability benefits. For them Social Security is the only thing they have. So it is important for us to stop playing games and to make sure we take care of Social Security.

PASS THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate is considering a bill that we passed out of this House in July. It is called the Africa growth and opportunity act, and this act says that the United States is not giving up on Africa, that there is a real need, a real opportunity, to bring Africa into the world economy. The Africa bill is an important step in promoting Africa's development, and it is good for America too to open these markets in Africa, to open these export markets for the United States.

Trade between the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa has been growing for the last several years. We now have 100,000 U.S. jobs involved in exports to Africa at this time, and this bill is also good for my home State of California which is number five in exporting to Africa. We now take more of our oil from Africa than we do from the Persian Gulf, and this Africa bill is the most important trade legislation to pass this House in 5 years. It would be a major accomplishment if signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, let us export the free market to Africa. It is a win for Africa and a win for America.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am following my colleague from Arizona on a regular basis here on our 1-minutes. Let me give some statistics that we are talking about when we are really talking about saving Social Security: the amount of the Social Security surplus the House Republicans have already dipped into, \$14 billion;

the amount of Social Security surplus House Republicans are on track to spend, \$24 billion; amount by which the House Republican appropriations exceed the President's request, \$14 billion; the Republican leader who said he never would have created Social Security, the majority leader, my colleague from Texas (Mr. ARMEY); number of days the GOP budget tax plan would extend the life of Social Security, zero; the number of years House Democratic budget would extend Social Security, 16 years; total cost of the tax breaks that, thank goodness, the President vetoed was a trillion dollars, and that would have even been worse on Social Security.

Let me tell my colleagues what we need to do. We need to add more teachers to our classroom, more police officers to our streets and the number of military personnel who would be cut by the Republican-proposed 1.4 percent budget would be 39,000 military personnel.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A BETTER IDEA

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I guess it is true what they say about old dogs. No matter how hard we try sometimes, we just cannot teach them new tricks. So when we try to stop the people who have been raiding the Social Security Trust Fund from doing it any more, well, that is a lot easier said than done. See, they have been using this money to fund big government programs, and if we tell them they have got to find one penny out of every Federal dollar to preserve Social Security for America's retirees, that is a pretty tough trick for them.

The comments of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) tell us just how hard a time the Democrats are having learning it when he says that we should spend as little of the Social Security surplus as possible. What he is really saying is let us spend as much of the Social Security surplus as we want on the Federal bureaucracy, and if there happens to be any money left, heck, we may as well give it back to the people it belongs to.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a better idea: stop the raid first. Strengthening retirement security must be a top priority, not an afterthought.

FIGHT FOR OUR SCHOOLS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is our sacred responsibility to make sure that all of our children have an equal opportunity to learn. But today I rise to express my deep concern that the Republican leadership does not

share this commitment. While Democrats have been working night and day to improve education, to put more teachers in our schools and to reduce class sizes, the Republican leadership have been trying to take money out of the schools and away from the majority of this country's children.

The Republican plan is not just. The Republican plan is not right. We should be building up our schools, not knocking them down. For the sake of our children, all of our children, we must fight for our schools.

PRESIDENT SENDS PLAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY TO HOUSE

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me an opportunity to stand before the forum this morning and express my appreciation.

□ 1030

For a number of days, I have been in the well seeking the President's plan on Social Security, and I have, for 29 days, been tracking the fact that, until yesterday afternoon, the President had not delivered a plan.

While I am pleased to say that we have received a plan, it did just come in yesterday afternoon, it is a very lengthy plan, it is filled with many however's, and whereases, and therefore's, and thereases, and I am working my way through it. But I did want to stand and express my appreciation to the administration, Mr. Speaker, for having forwarded the plan and to say that we will be reviewing it.

I hope it gets a fair hearing, and I am looking forward to the dialogue as to the adequacy of the plan. So with that, Mr. Speaker, this placard is no longer operative. Again, I thank the administration for finally forwarding their plan.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last night the President sent Congress his legislative proposal, entitled Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999.

The President's plan would devote the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extend the solvency of Social Security to 2050, and establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surpluses for the period of fiscal years 2002 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

I want to stress to my colleagues the urgency in discussing and reaching a fair compromise on this proposal. If we do not, our constituents will suffer and be caught in the middle of a partisan battle, and I am very concerned.

In New York, Social Security benefits 2.3 million people who are retired workers, disabled workers, widows and widowers, wives and husbands, and over 247,000 children in New York receive Social Security benefits. In my district, in southeastern Queens, 74,579 people receive Social Security benefits, of which 9,000 of these individuals are children.

We must preserve Social Security so that our constituents will have a decent quality of life.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let's go Yankees.

CBO SAYS REPUBLICANS' PLAN DOES NOT SPEND SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle are continuing to claim that the Republican Congress' spending plan takes from the Social Security Trust Fund. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

The problem with the Democrat claim is that it is based on spending assumptions that have never materialized. They simply do not exist.

Let me share with the House an updated letter, dated September 30, 1999, from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It says, "CBO estimates that the Republicans' spending plan will not use any of the projected Social Security surpluses in fiscal year 2000."

The facts are clear, this Republican Congress is not and will not spend the Social Security surplus.

STATE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, Senator George Mitchell resumes talks today with pro Good Friday Agreement political leaders from Northern Ireland.

Since the Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998, we have seen some progress towards a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. The Patten Commission has issued its report on Policing in Northern Ireland and the cease-fire has remained intact.

Despite these positive events, the agreement's foes have consistently sought to delay and derail implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, particularly David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party.

The most recent effort to derail the peace process centers around the debate on decommissioning. Even though the Good Friday Agreement contains no provision that the IRA begin decommissioning before Sinn Fein can take its place on the Executive Committee, First Minister and UUP leader David Trimble has linked the two issues together in clear violation of the Good Friday Agreement.